



Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at <http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content>.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact support@jstor.org.

sideratum was likely soon to be supplied, for Colonel Pelly, Her Majesty's political Resident in the Persian Gulf, had resolved to make a scientific exploration into the country where Mr. Palgrave had been, taking with him scientific men and instruments sufficient to make the requisite observations, astronomical and otherwise, to fix positions. The purport of Colonel Pelly's letter was to the effect that having heard from the 'Proceedings' of the Royal Geographical Society issued in April, 1864, that it was a *desideratum* to determine with scientific accuracy the positions of the Wahabite capital, and some other points of interest in the interior, he had determined, notwithstanding the accounts of the difficulties and dangers of such a journey, to lead at once a party of competent officers and men of science into the country. He was unwilling that it should be supposed insuperable difficulties existed in the way of penetrating any Asiatic territory adjacent to his jurisdiction, for it had been his habit to consider that an English officer could go anywhere when his duty required it. Accordingly he announced to his Government that he was then on his march (February 14). His plan was to land at Koweit, and from that point to proceed to the capital, returning to the Persian Gulf by another route. The party consisted, besides himself, of Lieutenant Dawes (who carried with him all the necessary instruments), and Dr. Colvill, as botanist and mineralogist.

Sir HENRY RAWLINSON said in an expedition of this sort success depended mainly upon the qualifications of the officer who undertook it. Under proper auspices it was certain to produce great results; under an incompetent chief it would lead to failure. Colonel Pelly in his letter spoke in a confident tone, but he had full authority to speak with confidence. He had already given proof of his qualifications by performing one of the most adventurous journeys ever undertaken by an European officer. It was a journey of which very little was known; but it really deserved to be noticed, because it redounded greatly to the credit of Colonel Pelly, and showed what could be done by a man of tact, conciliatory address and courage, in passing through countries in his own character as a British officer. In the year 1861 Colonel Pelly, in his uniform as a British officer, rode by way of Herat, Candahar, and Sinde, from Teheran to Calcutta, being the only officer who had ever passed by that route since the period of the Affghan war. He thought that was a sufficient example of what Colonel Pelly could accomplish, and of what we might anticipate from the expedition in which he was now engaged. It was also satisfactory to geographers to find that the 'Proceedings' of this Society had had the effect of stimulating our officers abroad to new enterprises of this nature. The good such enterprises did was twofold; in the first place they furthered the political interests of the British Government, and in the second place contributed to the advancement of geographical science. He believed that in the present instance of Colonel Pelly's advance into Arabia, the interests of geography had been more considered than political objects. We must wait a few months to see what the result would be. Mr. Palgrave, whose travels had thrown our first ray of light upon the interior of Arabia, was but a single traveller, and could only report the results of his personal experience. He had not the advantage of possessing astronomical instruments, nor had he any acquaintance with geology, or with the flora and fauna of the country. It was to be hoped that these deficiencies would be supplemented by Colonel Pelly's qualifications and the qualifications of the officers who would accompany him.

The first Paper was—

1. *On the Bayanos River, Isthmus of Panama.* By LAURENCE OLIPHANT, Secretary R.G.S.

THIS was a short narrative of a journey which the writer had made from Panama to the Chepo or Bayanos River, which enters the

Pacific about 30 miles to the westward of the former place. Between this point and the Gulf of St. Blas the Atlantic and the Pacific approach nearer to each other than they do in any other part, and the object of the paper was to call attention to the fact that, during the many surveys which had been undertaken with a view to discover the most practicable line for a ship-canal, this part had been neglected. The neck of land which divides the Atlantic from that point on the Bayanos River to which the tide of the Pacific extends, is only 15 miles across; and, however incredible it might seem, this short distance had never been crossed, much less explored, by a white man. In 1837 Mr. Wheelwright attempted it, but was driven back by the Indians; and some years later Mr. Evan Hopkins started with a view of exploring this route, but was compelled to abandon it for the same reason. The object of the writer in his visit was simply a reconnaissance, the persons in whose company he made the trip having no idea of exploration, but merely of visiting the little settlement of Chepo, where they had bought an estate. He was unable to reach so far as Terable, where the influence of the Pacific tides ends, and where an expedition to cross to the Atlantic would have to start from; but he saw from Chepo a very remarkable depression in the mountain chain about 10 miles distant. He was repeatedly assured, both at Panama and at Chepo, that the Darien Indians were in the habit of hauling their canoes on wooden slides across the Cordillera, from the Mandinga River, and launching them in the Bayanos. Surely it was a discredit to the civilization of the nineteenth century that the Indians should be said to pass with boats from the Pacific to the Atlantic, and that we should never have had the curiosity to verify this fact, or explore the only section of the Isthmus of which it could be stated with any appearance of truth.

The second Paper was the following :—

2. *A Journey from Chimborazo to Bogotá, across the Central Andes.*

By ROBERT CROSS, Esq.

THE Paper was a narrative of a journey performed by the writer while employed by the India Office in collecting seeds of the Pitayo cinchona-tree for planting in India. This valuable species of cinchona appears to be now reduced to a few specimens growing near Popayan, from which the writer succeeded in obtaining a good supply of seeds. He was residing in the neighbourhood of